

LITTLE BOB LOST

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and a fire had to be kept up day and
night, might
not the supply of fuel give out ?

Kelp was deposited on the beach by
every
incoming tide and quickly dried by the
sun. But
an acrid smoke was produced by the
combustion
of these sea-weeds, and they could not
make use
of them to warm the cave. The
atmosphere
would have been rendered
unbearable. So it
was thought best to close the entrance
with the
sails of the boat, fixing them firmly
enough to
withstand the squalls which beset the
cliff during
the winter.

There remained the problem of
lighting the
inside of the cave when the weather
should pre-
clude the possibility of working
outside.

The boatswain and Frank, assisted
by Jenny
and Dolly, made many rude candles
out of the
grease from the dog-fish which
swarmed in the
creek and were very easy to catch.

John Block melted this grease and so
obtained
a kind of oil which coagulated as it
cooled. Since
he had at his disposal none of the
cotton grown
by M. Zermatt, he was obliged to
content himself
with the fibre of the laminariae, which
furnished
practicable wicks.

There was also the question of
clothes, and
that was a different question indeed,
"It's pretty clear," said the
boatswain one
day, "that when you're shipwrecked
and cast

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